



PRESS RELEASE



RAMÓN VALLE & ORLANDO "MARACA" VALLE THE ART OF TWO

IOR CD 77131-2



1. Johana 4:05
2. Love for Marah 3:05
3. El Guanajo Relleno 3:56
4. Alena 7:26
5. Monologo 4:00

6. Latin for Two 3:42
7. Tu mi Delirio 9:01
8. Mi Guajira con Tumbao 4:08
9. Puentes 3:37
10. Amigos 3:36

Ramón Valle (piano)
Orlando "Maraca" Valle (flute)

RAMÓN VALLE & ORLANDO "MARACA" VALLE THE ART OF TWO (IN + OUT Records)

WHEN THE ART IS GOOD, TWO ARTISTS ARE SUFFICIENT.

At a time when Cuban music – the great art of the island involves a considerable amount of dissonance, when the timba, the Cuban version of salsa, campaigns to recapture those spheres of recognition and attention, the requéton (damned, diluted but still exceptionally powerful) sustains itself and is one of the fields in which some of Cuba's most creative musicians finally made it and opened up the international market – an achievement which was formerly out of reach, the two cousins, Ramón and Orlando „Maraca“ Valle go aboard their small, homely but comfortably equipped boat to go against the tide, or to follow the stream which was theirs from the beginning.

It is what makes "The Art of Two" an uncommon, though quite predictable, CD. Uncommon, because it simply aspires to what it is, regardless of further ambitions: great music, well-performed and without showing off or modifying it to meet the regional conditions of the market. Predictable, because, in accordance with the accomplishments and careers of both pianist Ramón Valle and flautist Orlando Valle (first cousins, in case you didn't know) nothing less than a musical lushness was to be expected.

A piano and a flute are sufficient to create this gem. However, the instruments are played by two of the most talented and agile exponents of contemporary Cuban music, both of whom are endowed with strong musical concepts as well as exquisite interpretative skill, with which they mould and furbish this precious gem.

Because of their skills and affinity with classical music, they were able to use the best musical instruments during their studies at the academy. As a result, they could put into practice what has long been their strongest desire: playing music which is inspired

by the two most influential African-American sources: Jazz and original Cuban Music, transcending the limitations the limits of genre. Style and format with the utmost freedom, while still maintaining a fundament, which goes beyond categories (which are often falsely set) of what is serious, classical music and what is popular music: the gospel of the artistic quality of their projects and interpretations.

This is the reason why "The Art of Two" is not only a testimony which discloses the artistic maturity of the two masters of jazz and Cuban music, but which is also a clear indication of how premium jazz may arise, while by-passing any stereotypes and simplifications and starting from the base of an essential and generally accepted Cuban music, which evolves into a universal and contemporary lushness of sound.

A principle which is deeply musical is evoked on this CD, plus the implementation of good taste.

From their choice of their own original themes and themes by others, to the arrangements and interpretations, the music has an elegance which adorns itself with melancholy melodies, a substantial element of tradition – which provides a welcome contrast to the contemporary sound and simultaneously empowers it with musical potency, which seeks to – and may easily abandon and virtuosic embellishment, because the stringency and the solidity of musical mastery is already inherent.

The ten pieces on the CD are assembled like a mellow, hypnotizing stream. After the lyrical "Johana" (Ramón Valle), which draws the curtain, we approach the smooth "Love For Marah" (Orlando Valle) then dive deep into Cuban music with "El Guanajo Relleno" (by the great Ignacio Pinero) and involve ourselves

in the rhythmic jazz of "Latin For Two" and "Tu mi Delirio" (Cesar Portillo de la Luz) to the sound and twilight of Havana, only to get electrified by "Guajira con Tumbao". the subtle interpretation of a vintage piece of Cuban dance music, and to finally disband with the timidly melancholic interpretations of "Puentes" and "Amigos" (both from Ramon Valle), which may be the most personal documents on the CD.

While I am making the entire journey of "The Art of Two" for the third and fourth time, from the beginning to the end and without any pause, a question comes to me repeatedly: Regardless of the genre, what are the essentials for good music? Well, when listening to this CD, I once again find that it is the musicians who are gifted with talent and who are blessed with sensitivity and a sense of the required temperament. For, although music is often a spectacle, it is always and has forever

THE ART OF TWO is a resume, it is a testament to the mutual admiration and respect between two musicians, it is a reunion of two cousins and friends, who for the first time after 20 years had a meeting in the recording studio to combine our musical experiences as an artist.

It is a tribute to our family and especially our grandfather Jacinto Valle (director of military bands) for teaching us to run the scale and inculcate love for classical music. This album is a gift to our children and for future generations of musicians who will come behind us.

I hope this record will help them counter the difficult times and to magnify the moments of happiness. If we reach this goal than our mission is accomplished.

I want to thank wholeheartedly the support and delivery of all involved in the making of this record:

My manager, (my wife) Marret Valle Sanchez, Maraca's manager Celine Chavau, Paul Power from the Power Sound Studio and Frank Kleinsmidt of IN + OUT Records.

Thank you.
Ramon

an invitation to enjoy an art which reaches the minds and hearts of audiences.

The German label, IN + OUT Records, which specializes in jazz and is well-known for the quality of its albums, enables us to cherish this gem which if offered to us by the Valle cousins on board their barque, going against the current stream – or shaping a stream of their own through the artistry of two Cubans, who prove to us that the music of our island is greater than our geography.

Leonardo Padura
September 2016

For me this CD is an award since we met each other so long ago in Central Havana back in the early years of the 80's.

Ramon had just arrived from Holguin (his hometown) and the meeting had something magical from the first moment because we felt that we had something in common. And this something was Jazz and the great Cuban and international music that we had inside of us.

We were full of anxiety, ideas and especially to play as two very restless teenagers who we were back then. Only our common game was music.

Our parents worried if we would keep with our classical studies and would not go to play the popular music (paranoia of music schools in Cuba at that time). But when Ramon rang his first chords and melodies the destiny was written.

The only thing that was necessary was time and sheer endless miles of travel for those precious memories to reborn.

So we can say that it was worth waiting and draw long lines through time and the world to get this result of love and brotherhood that makes us unique because every sound or silence of this work there is a kind of musical genome that portrays the past and throws it into eternity.

Maraca



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WITH OMAR RODRIGUEZ CALVO & ERNESTO SIMSON
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